thodically driven into the head, not only gives it a pretty look, but makes it the heavier, and caufes it to move more regularly.

The whip is a matter that requires fome confideration, as many errors are committed in the management of it. I have feen fome little boys knock a whipping-top about for an hour together, without being able to get it into a ftrong fpin, and, after many attempts have at laft given it over, with tears in their eyes. They knew not that the fault lay in the whip, which was made of a long piece of flimfy leather, faftened in a hole, made with a nail-piercer in the ftick. Here were two capital faults; firft, the leather was too weak; and fecondly, it was improperly faftened to the ftick.

If the leather is not of the tougheft and ftrongeft fort, it will by no means anfwer the end, as it will not have the power of commanding the motion of the top; indeed even a bit of rope would do better. The beft thing for this purpofe is, beyond all doubt, a well-dried eel-fkin, efpecially after it has been made pliable by a little ufe:

ufe: and here it may not be amifs to give a fhort direction how properly to dry them for your purpofe. Take an eel-fkin juft after it is taken off the fifh, and wafh it; pull it out to its full length and breadth, and lay it in fome place, perfectly fmooth and ftretched out, where it may not freeze; but by no means dry it by the fire, for that will fhrink it up to nothing. It will be fit for ufe in a few days; but no matter how long it has to dry, for the drier it is the better it will be.

The method of faftening the leather or eel-fkin to the ftick, as generally practifed, is very erroneous. A hole is made in the ftick, and the fkin run through it, being only faftened by a knot; fo that, when you ftrike the top, it is uncertain whether you may hit it with the edge, or the flat part of the fkin. If you *chance* to hit it with the flat, it is well enough; but, if you hit it with the edge, which is full as likely, you fpoil the top's fpinning for that bout. —Now the method I have always obferved is this. I take the head-end of

MICHEL ANGELO *Juvenile Sports and Pastimes* LONDON, 1776 HASKOLL COLLECTION, THE BODLEIAN LIBRARY Octavo